from Licensing Authorities where licensed manufacturing companies were found manufacturing spurious drugs. After investigations of the cases unearthed and detected, such persons when apprehended are prosecuted in the court of law as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. Since these persons are not licensed manufacturers or traders of drugs, the publication of their names will not be of any significance. Therefore, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government to publish the names of the persons involved in the manufacture and trading of spurious drugs.

Muscle damage by excessive mobile phone messaging

4830. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excessive mobile phone messaging could lead to muscle damage and the risk is much to children;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cellphone messaging is on the increase in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avert health hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to ICMR, none of the available studies regarding Mobile Phone usage demonstrate any ill effect including muscle damage.

Palliative care for cancer patients

4831. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first foundation course on palliative care for cancer patients was inaugurated by him in Delhi;

(b) if so, the areas the course covered;

(c) whether palliative care for cancer patients has been provided by the Government hospitals around the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts taken by Government to provide palliative care for cancer patients and general awareness about the symptoms of cancer in the hospitals and all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The first foundation course on palliative care for cancer patients was organized by Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital, AIIMS, New Delhi at India International Centre on 6th-7th February, 2002 which was inaugurated by Dr. A.K. Walia, Health Minister, NCT of Delhi. As reported by AIIMS the aim of the course was to cover the area of palliative care for cancer patients, pain and symptoms management in patients and the use of morphine in pain management.

(c) to (e) The treatment of cancer is done by Surgery, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy. The supportive and palliative care is provided by medical doctors for alleviation of pain, swelling, bleeding etc. This is available in Government hospitals including medical colleges and district hospitals across the country. The palliative care is also being provided by 19 Regional Cancer Centres recognized by this Ministry besides secondary and tertiary health care institutions.

In addition to above, this Ministry is operating a scheme under which grant-in-aid is provided to NGOs for creating awareness and early detection of cancer.

New drug for Thalassemic patients

4832. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new drug for Thalassemic patients has been developed and is in use in the hospitals, whereby a patient is not now required to go to the hospital for blood transfusion again and again;

(b) if so, the details of the drug;

(c) the hospitals where this drug is in use and the number of patients treated in hospitals, so far; and

(d) whether the treatment has been given wide publicity to bring a change in the life of the patients for the better?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Patients of Thalassemia require regular blood transfusions and this results in excess iron collecting in the body. There have been a number of recent drugs and techniques developed to take care of these problems. These include the use of techniques like bone marrow transplantation, oral chelating agents and drugs like hydroxyurea, among others.